





*Again, I needed
no words.*

He simply understood.

*And held me, so
I stood there
shaking.*

*He felt
like
home.*







HEY, WHAT'S
GOING ON?



OH MY GOD, WHAT
HAPPENED?!



U-UHM.

U-MY BOYFRIEND, H-H-

NNN.



DID HE DO
SOMETHING?

H-HE...
HE TRIED
TO, UH.

BUT I,
UH, I HIT
HIM WITH
SOMETHING.





BEATING
HIM TO A PULP
AND GETTING
YOURSELF
ARRESTED IS
NOT
THE WAY TO
HANDLE THIS!



RIGHT.
YOU'RE STAYING
WITH US FOR
THE NIGHT.

WAIT HERE,
AND WE'LL GO
GET YOUR THINGS,
OKAY?



COME ON, I'LL
GET YOU SOME
WATER.

YOU KNOW
WHICH
ROOM?

612.



W-WAIT.

I'LL
COME WITH
YOU.

**KNOCK
KNOCK**

WHERE
THE HELL
WERE...

MATT, WHAT DID
I SAY?!!! STOP
THIS!

YOU
MISERABLE
PIECE OF...



MATT!!
ARGH!!

I SAID
STOP IT!

PLEASE
DON'T.



MATT, ARE
YOU OKAY?!!







TOUCH HER
AGAIN...

...AND I WILL
BREAK YOUR
ARMS.



WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?

YOU THE CHAPERONES?



WHAT HAPPENED ?!

*After that...things
got kind of vague.*



*I felt the voices
working over me, but
didn't listen to what
they were saying.*



*It felt like a
bad dream.*



*I remember
there was pizza.*

*And a movie I
don't think I
watched.*



*I remember
laughing.*



*...And then
crying.*

*I don't
remember
falling
asleep.*









HEY,
SLEEPYHEAD.











happy.



*...God, how I
wished this day would
last forever.*













No matter how hard I
worked for the day to
never end...

...eventually, and
I did.



TAKE CARE, KIDDO.
SEE YOU NEXT YEAR?

I'LL BE
HERE.

AWESOME-
POSSUM.

I GOTTA
RUN BACK--HAVE
A SAFE TRIP!

GOOD
LUCK
PACKMAN!





I'M
JUST...SO
GLAD TO
HAVE MET
YOU.

THANK YOU.

FOR
EVERYTHING.



...

*I will not cry,
I will not cry...*



WELL, I'D BETTER
LET YOU GO.



SANDRA'LL
HAVE YOUR HIDE
FOR A HANDBAG IF
YOU DON'T HELP
HER PACK.

DO I
DETECT A NOTE
OF GLEE AT THE
PROSPECT?



HEH.

TAKE CARE.
YOU'LL SEE YOU
NEXT YEAR.



HAVE
A SAFE
TRIP..



*And this is how you
break your own heart into
itty-bitty little pieces.*

*I should give
lessons.*



ALL
READY TO
GO HOME?

YEAH.



And I am.



?





HA HA

ARE
YOU ALL
RIGHT?

HA
HA
HA

HA
HA

I'M
GREAT.



*My first anime
convention...*

Did not go smoothly.

*But all things
considered...*



*I can't wait to
go back.*

IN THE NEXT VOLUME OF...

Paul and Catherine

DRAMA CON

One year later, Christie is a year older and a year wiser. Back at the Lakeside Anime Convention, but with a new artist and a new online venture, she can't wait to reunite with Matt. Unfortunately, it seems that Matt has brought someone along to the con, too: a new girlfriend. Fighting their feelings for each other, which are as strong as ever, in spite of the distance, Matt and Christie do their best to keep their relationship from getting too complicated and chaotic. But nothing is more chaotic than a fan convention, and what the head says is not always what's best for the heart! Read on in Dramacon Vol. 2!



♡ ~THANQ'S~ ♡

Man oh man, where do I even START. I just know I'm going to forget someone :-(But here goes, in no particular order:

Lillian - bestest editor ever. Thank you for the kind words, the encouragement and the kicks in the bums when I needed them :3

Wirepop and GAN - for being so understanding and giving me the time to finish this book.

My **FANS** - for all your kind comments and the assurances that I do NOT suck. Those really make a difference on bad days! Also - forever thanks for reading my stuff.

My friends - for not giving up on me as I hided up in my room for half a year with this.

My sister - for laughing at all my jokes and always asking for more.

My Mom - for making sure I don't forget to eat :3

My Dad - for making sure my computer works :3

(My family and friends are awesome, did I mention that yet? 'Cause they are.) :3

And a special thanks to **Alexis** and **Dee** for helping me with the toning. I AM NOT WORTHY OF SUCH FRIENDS :3 Especially Dee, who sacrificed work and sleep to help me in the final dash :3

...Aaaand I'm running out of page space. Thank you, everyone who helped and bought this book!!"

Luv, Svet. :3



... and people wonder how I keep so trim. It's all that running from figments of my imagination!

On the set II



... RIGHT, SO, KNOW HOW MATT IS ALWAYS SO SERIOUS? A TOTAL STICK IN THE MUD, AROUND HERE. SO I DECIDED TO GET HIM TO LIGHTEN UP...

... THROUGH CROSSDRESSING!!
(AH, YA ALL-KNEW IT WAS COMING!)
BEHOLD! MATT IN GOTH LOH!

...THE
HELL?



*GOTH LOH! = GOTHIC LOWT A PRESS

EXPERIENCING
TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES
PLEASE STAND BY

...YEAH,
HEY, WILLY,
THIS BOOK
NEEDS
A NEW
WRITER

THE OLD
ONE?
SHE, UM...
ACCIDENTALLY
FELL
OFF A CLIFF



-SIGH- MATT...



YOU CAN'T
PUSH CREATORS
OFF A CLIFF
JUST BECAUSE
THEY...
... WHAT DID
SHE DO THIS
TIME?

TRIED
TO PUT
ME IN A
DRESS.



... I SEE...
WRATH
WELL-DESERVED, THEN.
UM.
... A PRESS,
HUH?

...WERE
THERE
PICTURES?

.....

CRUSH-



Revenge
On the
set.

— SO, NOW
THAT THE BOOM
IS DONE AND WE
ALL BREATHED OUR
SIGH OF RELIEF—

HOW
DID YOU LIVE
WORKING
ON IT?

OH, I LOVED IT!
ALL MY CO-STAR'S ARE
SO WONDERFUL—
EVEN DEREK'S A TOTAL-
SWEET HEART OFF-CAMERA

AND
HOW ABOUT
YOU, MATT?

YES, I ESPECIALLY
LIKED IT WHEN
IT ENDED

QUESTION: DID YOU HAVE TO WRITE HER AS A SPAN?

EXCUSE
ME

YOU'RE
EXCUSED

... BUT JUST
BECAUSE YOU HAVE
ALL THE EXPRESSION
RANGE OF A ROCK!"

IT'S CALLED
'QUIET DIGNITY'

NOOOO, IT'S CALLED
'AUTHOR WAS ALL OUT
OF CHARACTER DEPTH
WHEN SHE WROTE YOU'

..... I MEAN, UN
EE.

I SUGGEST
RUNNING.
VERY FAST.

...Matt does so have character depth!  a shakes fist

DRAMACON



"BEST INKS!"

Yasmin Saaka (Shady)

OHIO

"BEST MASCOT?"

Andre Richard

CANADA



"BEST EXPRESSIONS!"

Amy Capobres

IDAHO



"BEST COSTUME!"

Duane Barbour

VIRGINIA



DRAMACON

"BEST PLUSHIE!"

Roxanne Tran

CALIFORNIA



"BEST BADASS!"

J. Dee Du Puy

MASSACHUSETTS



"BEST EXAMPLE OF
WHY EDITORS DON'T
DRAW!"

Lillian Diaz-Przybyl

CALIFORNIA



FAN ART

"BEST PUPPY SHIRT!"

Nichol Ashworth

MASSACHUSETTS



"BEST SHOJO
SPRINKLES!"

Hope Donovan

CALIFORNIA

DRAMACON

HI-HO, Y'ALL! YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD EDITOR IS HERE TO PRESENT HOW SVET PUTS US ALL TO SHAME BY BEING TOTALLY AWESOME. THIS IS ONE OF MY FAVORITE PAGES FROM THE BOOK, SO I THOUGHT I'D SHOW IT FROM INITIAL THUMBNAIL TO FINAL FINISHED PAGE.



PENCILS:

SINCE THE LAYOUT OF THE PANELS AND POSITIONING OF THE CHARACTERS IS ESTABLISHED IN THE THUMBNAILS STAGE, THE PENCILS MOSTLY INVOLVE CLEANING UP LINES AND RENDERING THE IMAGES WITH MORE DETAIL. NOT THAT IT'S EASY, MIND YOU, AND IF THERE IS SOMETHING IN THE IMAGE THAT LOOKS WONKY (LIKE THE PERSPECTIVE, OR SOME PART OF THE ANATOMY), THE PENCIL STAGE IS WHERE THE EDITOR SHOULD POINT IT OUT SO IT CAN BE FIXED WITHOUT HAVING TO REDO LATER STEPS.

THUMBNAILS:

ANYONE IN EDITORIAL CAN VOUCH THAT GIVEN THE CHANCE, I TEND TO GUSH ABOUT HOW EVEN WITH EMPTY WORD-BALLOONS, SVET'S WORK CAN MAKE ME LAUGH OUT LOUD (OR GET ALL MISTY-EYED), AND THIS PAGE FROM CHAPTER 3 IS A STELLAR EXAMPLE OF THAT. THIS BOOK HAS A LOT OF COMIC MOMENTS, BUT CHRISTIE SPONTANEOUSLY COMBUSTING (AND SINGED DEREK'S WHEEZY REACTION) REALLY CRACKED ME UP. EVEN IN A ROUGH SKETCH, THE ENERGY OF THE SCENE IS RENDERED WITH SKILL AND ENERGY.



SVETLANA MAKES A MANGA!



INKS:

INKING IS AN ART THAT IS UNDERAP-
PRECIATED BY MANY CASUAL READ-
ERS. ESPECIALLY IN MANGA, WHICH
IS PRIMARILY IN BLACK AND WHITE,
GOOD INKING ADDS A LOT OF THE
VOLUME AND DEPTH TO THE IMAGE.
I LIKE HIGH-CONTRAST ART, SO I
ALWAYS ENJOY SEEING WHERE
SVET ADDS IN HEAVY BLACKS, TOO.
IT'S FUN TO SEE EVERYTHING
STARTING TO LOOK SO POLISHED
AND DRAMATIC!

TONES:

FINALLY, DIGITAL TONES ARE ADDED,
GIVING THE ART ITS FINISHED LOOK,
AND CREATING BOTH REPRESENTA-
TIONS OF COLOR AND, MORE
IMPORTANTLY, TEXTURE. EMOTIONAL
EFFECTS LIKE THE LIGHTNING
BOLTS OR THE LITTLE SHOJO
SPARKLES ARE USUALLY DONE
THROUGH TONES. PRETTY NEAT,
HUH? BEST THING ABOUT BEING AN
EDITOR IS THAT INSTEAD OF HAVING
TO LEARN HOW TO DRAW YOURSELF,
YOU GET TO WATCH OTHER PEOPLE
DO IT, AND DO IT SO WELL!

SIGNING OFF!
-LDP

(SEE YOU IN BOOK 2!)



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and other hot titles are
available at the store
that never closes!



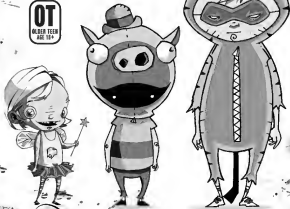
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I LUV HALLOWEEN

I LUV HALLOWEEN

Written by Keith Giffen, comic book pro and English language adapter of *Battle Royale* and *Battle Vixens*.

Join the misadventures of a group of particularly disturbing trick-or-treaters as they go about their macabre business on Halloween night. Blaming the apples they got from the first house of the evening for the bad candy they've been receiving all night, the kids plot revenge on the old bag who handed out the funky fruit. Riotously funny and always wickedly shocking—who doesn't love Halloween?



Preview the manga at:
www.TOKYOPOP.com/iluvhalloween

**THIS TIME IT'S NOT ONLY
ABOUT THE CANDY...**





BY MASAMI TSUDA

KARE KANO

Kare Kano has a fan following for a reason: believable, well-developed characters. Of course, the art is phenomenal, ranging from sugary sweet to lightning-bolt powerful. But above all, Masami Tsuda's refreshing concept—a high school king and queen decide once and for all to be honest with each other (and more importantly, themselves)—succeeds because Tsuda-sensei allows us to know her characters as well as she does. Far from being your typical high school shojo, *Kare Kano* delves deep into the psychology of what would normally just be protagonists, antagonists and supporting cast to create a satisfying journey that is far more than the sum of its parts.

—Carol Fox, Editor



BY SHIZURU SAIRO

GIRL GOT GAME

There's a fair amount of cross-dressing shojo sports manga out there (no, really), but *Girl Got Game* really sets itself apart by having an unusually charming and very funny story. The art style is light and fun, and Kyo spazzing out always cracks me up. The author throws in a lot of great plot twists, and the great side characters help to make the story just that much more special. Sadly, we're coming up on the final volume, but I give this series credit for not letting the romance drag out unnecessarily or endlessly revisiting the same dilemmas. I'm really looking forward to seeing how the series wraps up!

—Lillian M. Diaz-Przybyl, Jr. Editor



Kare Kano © Masami Tsuda. Girl Got Game © Shizuru Sairo.



IT WOO

REBIRTH

Every manga fan has their "first love." For me, that book is *Rebirth*. I've worked on this series in one fashion or another since its debut, and this epic, action-packed vampire tale has never yet let me down. *Rebirth* is a book that defies expectations as well as first impressions. Yes, it's got the dark, brooding vampire anthero. And, sure, there's lots of bloodshed and tight-bodied maidens in peril. But creator Woo has interwoven an enthralling tale of revenge and redemption that, at its heart, is a truly heartbreaking tragedy. Were you a fan of TV's *Angel*? Do you read Anne Rice? Well, my friend, *Rebirth* is for you!

-Bryce R. Coleman, Editor



IT TALKS BACK

TRAMPS LIKE US

Thrillingly erotic but relentlessly realistic, *Tramps Like Us* turns gender stereotypes on their head. Sumire Iwaya, a beautiful and busy news exec, is disappointed by the men in her life. So she takes in a gorgeous young boy and makes him her pet. As a man, am I offended? Not really. Actually, I find it really sweet. Sumire is no wide-eyed, skirted, young manga vixen. She's tall, womanly, with a wide mouth and serious, appraising eyes. Momo is cute as a puppy one minute, graceful and petite the next. But the book only indulges the fantasy aspect partway. The abnormal situation gets awkward and even burdensome. I love it. And the tone Carol Fox sets in the English adaptation is one of the best around.

-Luis Reyes, Editor





© Myung-Jin Lee (Editor: CJ Inc.)

LIGHTS OUT

BY MYUNG-JIN LEE

Gun has always been a problem kid, but after a tearful plea from his mom, he decides to turn over a new leaf. Vowing to abandon troublemaking, Gun transfers to a new high school and rents a room at the local coed dorm. There he falls for Seung-Ah, the dorm owner's granddaughter. However, love is not to be for this couple, as sexy Ji-Ae's untimely advances always thwart Gun's attempts to woo the innocent Seung-Ah.

From the creator of *Ragnarok*, one of the top-selling Korean manga of all time!



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Characters from FINAL FANTASY video game series
©1990, 1997, 1998, 2001, 2002 Square Enix Co., Ltd.

KINGDOM HEARTS

BY SHIRO ARAMORI

Sora's whole world is shattered when a violent storm hits his island-paradise home and he is separated from his two closest friends, Riku and Kairi. The three friends are scattered to different and unknown worlds. At the same time, there's turmoil in Disney Castle...King Mickey is missing! Donald and Goofy meet Sora, and they join forces to search for Sora's friends and the King!

Based on the mind-bogglingly popular Square/Disney videogame!



OFF*BEAT

BY JEN LEE COOK

Meet 15-year-old Tory Blake, a self-proclaimed genius who is more than a bit cynical about the world. Life is just tedious for Tory...until he befriends a mysterious boy his own age who moves in across the street. But this pursuit of friendship—and possibly something more—leads Tory to the one thing he wasn't expecting to discover.



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